

Message Text

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43

ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-11 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

SCA-01 IGA-02 AID-05 DPW-01 /080 W

----- 112663

R 081417Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5086

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0397

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, PINS, PINT, SF

SUB: HUMAN RIGHTS: SOUTH AFRICA

REF: STATE 04531, 75 CAPE TOWN A-30

1. SOUTH AFRICA IS NOT A RECIPIENT OF USG DEVELOPMENT OR SECURITY ASSISTANCE. NEVERTHELESS, THE PERFORMANCE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO HUMAN RIGHTS IS JUSTIFIABLY A TOPIC OF CONTINUING CONCERN IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD. IN REVIEWING THE EVENTS OF THE LAST YEAR, THE EMBASSY HAS DETERMINED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE INSTITUTIONALIZED PATTERN OF DEPRIVATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS SINCE THE SUBMISSION OF REF B IN FEBRUARY, 1975.

2. WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS FORMALLY STATED ITS INTENTION TO 'MOVE AWAY FROM DISCRIMINATION,' THE CHANGES WHICH HAVE COME ABOUT ARE PERIPHERAL AT BEST. THE SAG'S DEFINITION OF DISCRIMINATION IS PARTICULARLY NARROW AND DOES NOT SPEAK TO THE BASIC ISSUE OF EXCLUSION OF THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION, BECAUSE OF RACE, FROM A SHARE IN THE GOVERNANCE OF THE NATION, NOR TO THE RAFT OF

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RIGHTS OF MOBILITY, ACTIVITY AND ASSOCIATION, NOR TO THE

REPRESSIVE SYSTEM OF LAWS WHICH SEEK TO INHIBIT ANY MEANINGFUL
CHALLENGE OF THE SYSTEM.

3. EMBASSY HAS REPORTED CONTINUOUSLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES
WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA; E.G. DETENTIONS, TRIALS, LEGISLATION,
AND HAS DEALT WITH OVERALL SAG POLICIES AND ATTITUDES
IN SEVERAL DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING A POLICY REVIEW SUBMITTED
IN NOVEMBER (75 PRETORIA 4285) ALL OF WHICH ARE AVAILABLE
IN THE DEPT. IN ADDITION, THE POST RECOMMENDS THAT CLARENCE
MITHCELL'S EXCELLENT AND COMPREHENSIVE UN STATEMENT OF
NOVEMBER 28, 1975 BE CONSIDERED A BASIC TEXT IN OUTLINING
SOUTH AFRICA'S DISMAL PERFORMANCE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN
RIGHTS.

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Message Attributes

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